

AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. (currently amended) A microcapsule comprising a disperse system, in which a colored particle is dispersed in an oil phase, and a wall encapsulating the disperse system,

wherein the wall is formed with an anionic resin having an acid group or a salt thereof having, in the free acid form, an acid value of 20 to 400 mgKOH/g, and

wherein the resin constituting the wall is crosslinked or cured with the use of the acid group of said anionic resin.

2. (cancelled).

3. (cancelled).

4. (original) A microcapsule according to claim 1, wherein the resin constituting the wall has a self-crosslinkable group, or a crosslinkable group to a reactive group of the resin, or a crosslinking agent.

5. (original) A microcapsule according to claim 1, wherein the disperse system comprises an electrically insulating dielectric fluid, and a single kind or plural kinds of colored particle(s) dispersed in the dielectric fluid.

6. (original) A microcapsule according to claim 1, wherein the colored particle is charged in the oil phase for moving electrophoretically in the microcapsule by a potential difference or an electromotive force.

7. (original) A microcapsule according to claim 1, wherein the mean particle size of the colored particle is 10 to 500 nm, the mean particle size of the microcapsule is 1 to 1000 μm , and the mean thickness of the microcapsule wall is not more than 2 μm .

8. (original) A microcapsule according to claim 1, which is interposed between a pair of electrodes, for displaying an image by electrophoresis of the colored particle.

9. (currently amended) A process for producing a microcapsule which comprises:

a step for preparing a liquid organic dispersion containing (i.) an anionic resin whose acid value in the free acid form is 20 to 400 mgKOH/g and whose acid group has been neutralized, (ii.) a colored particle, and (iii.) an organic solvent;

a step for dispersing the liquid organic dispersion in an aqueous medium to produce a capsule particle in the aqueous medium, the capsule particle comprising a disperse system in which the colored particle is dispersed in the organic solvent, and a wall encapsulating the disperse system; and

a step for separating the capsule particle from the aqueous medium for dryness to obtain a microcapsule encapsulating the disperse system,

wherein the process further comprises crosslinking or curing the resin constituting the wall by use of unneutralized acid groups of the anionic resin, after the step of formation of the capsule particle in the aqueous medium, or during the step of separating the capsule particle from the aqueous medium for dryness, or at both of these stages.

10. (original) A process according to claim 9, wherein the liquid organic dispersion is dispersed in the aqueous medium by emulsification or phase inversion emulsification.

11. (cancelled).

12. (original) A process according to claim 9, wherein the liquid organic dispersion is dispersed in the aqueous medium, in which the liquid organic dispersion comprises, as an organic solvent, a hydrophobic organic solvent and a polar solvent dissolving the resin constituting the wall and being miscible to the aqueous medium.

13. (original) A process according to claim 9, which comprises

a step for neutralizing the acid group of the resin in a polar solvent dissolving the resin constituting the wall and being miscible to the aqueous medium for obtaining a resin solution;

a step for mixing the resin solution obtained by said neutralization step with a coloring agent to prepare a liquid organic dispersion;

a step for dispersing the liquid organic dispersion in the aqueous medium to produce an aqueous liquid dispersion containing a capsule particle;

a step for crosslinking or curing the wall of the capsule particle in the aqueous medium;
and

a step for separating the capsule particle from the aqueous medium for dryness.

14. (original) A process according to claim 9 or 13, wherein the resin constituting the wall of the capsule particle is crosslinked or cured with a crosslinking agent.

15. (original) A process according to claim 9 or 13, wherein the resin constituting the wall is crosslinked or cured with a crosslinking agent, and then the unreacted crosslinking agent is further crosslinked or cured with a polyfunctional compound.